

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

S E C R E T BONN 12846

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW
SUBJECT: BERLIN STOCKPILE - PRESS GUIDANCE

REFS: (A) STATE 171537; (B) BONN 11722

1. IN AUGUST 3 BONN GROUP MEETING, US AND UK REPS
CONFIRMED APPROVAL FROM CAPITALS ON THE FRG-DRAFTED
PRESS GUIDANCE TO BE USED IN THE EVENT THE PROPOSED
CHANGES IN THE BERLIN STOCKPILE PROGRAM BECOME PUBLIC
KNOWLEDGE (REF B). HOWEVER, FRENCH REP (RICHARD)
REPORTED, ON INSTRUCTIONS, THAT PARIS WISHED TO DELETE
THE SECTION OF THE THIRD SENTENCE WHICH READS: "WITH
THE CONSENT OF THE THREE ALLIED PROTECTING POWERS."
HE SAID THAT PARIS HAD ACCEPTED THE CHANGE IN STOCK-
PILES RELUCTANTLY AND DID NOT WISH TO RESPOND, IN THE
FIRST ANSWER TO PRESS INQUIRIES, THAT THE ALLIES
WERE INVOLVED. IF THE MATTER BECAME ONE OF SERIOUS
PUBLIC CONCERN, PARIS MIGHT BE PREPARED TO RECONSIDER
THE PRESS LINE.

2. BRITISH REP (EYERS) SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE
UNFORTUNATE TO DELETE THE REFERENCE TO THE ALLIES WHILE
RETAINING MENTION OF THE FRG. RICHARD THEREUPON

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AMENDED HIS PROPOSAL ALSO TO INCLUDE DELETION OF THE
REFERENCE TO THE FRG. THE THIRD SENTENCE WOULD THUS
READ: "THE PRESENT STOCKPILING PROGRAM IN BERLIN IS
UNDERGOING A PHASE OF RESTRUCTURING RECENTLY INITIATED."

3. EYERS AND THE FRG REP (VON BRAUNMUEHL) ACCEPTED
THE MODIFIED FRENCH PROPOSAL, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO

CAPITALS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL IS NOT PARTICULARLY WORKABLE, SINCE THE PRESS CAN BE EXPECTED TO PRESS FURTHER AND ASK WHETHER THE ALLIES WERE CONSULTED, WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS LITTLE TO BE GAINED BY SEEKING NOW TO CHANGE THE FRENCH POSITION. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE FRENCH ARE BEING DIFFICULT ON OTHER ISSUES, SOME OF WHICH WE CONSIDER MORE IMPORTANT. THE QUAI SEEMS TO BE SAVORING THE DEPARTURE OF DE BOISSIEU AND IS IMPOSING ITS WILL WITH A VEN-GEANCE ON THE NEW FRENCH REP. RICHARD, THOUGH COMPETENT, APPEARS TO HAVE NEITHER THE DEPTH OF BERLIN EXPERIENCE NOR THE PERSONAL CONNECTIONS IN THE QUAI THAT ENABLED DE BOISSIEU TO TEMPER AND SOMETIMES OVERCOME PARIS' OBJECTIONS TO POSITIONS WHICH THE OTHER BONN GROUP COUNTRIES FAVORED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT WE BE INSTRUCTED TO PROPOSE IN THE BONN GROUP, FOR APPROVAL BY CAPITALS, THE USE OF THE DELETED PHRASE BY FRG SPOKESMEN IF THEY ARE PRESSED ON THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE ALLIES AND FRG HAVE APPROVED THE CHANGE IN STOCKPILES. WE ALSO REQUEST THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED, AS A FALLBACK, TO ACCEPT THE AD REF TEXT OF AMENDED PRESS GUIDANCE IF THE FRENCH REFUSE THE AFORESAID PROPOSAL.

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